



February 6, 2007

## **H.R. 161 – Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007**

### **Floor Situation**

H.R. 161 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jay Inslee (D-WA) on January 4, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

H.R. 161 is expected to be considered on February 6, 2007.

*Note: In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Inslee introduced a similar bill (H.R. 5817). The Committee on Resources held a hearing on H.R. 5817 and the Administration testified in favor of the bill. A Senate companion bill (S. 3905) was introduced by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) but no action was taken during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.*

### **Summary**

H.R. 161 extends the boundary of the the Minidoka Internment National Monument in the state of Idaho to include the Nidotot Nai Yoni (“Let it not happen again”) memorial. The Nidotot Nai Yoni memorial consists of 8 acres of land owned by the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington and commemorates the Japanese Americans of Bainbridge Island, Washington, who were the first to be removed from their homes and relocated to internment camps during World War II under Executive Order 9066.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to enter into agreements with:

- The City of Bainbridge Island
- The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreational District
- The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Memorial Committee
- The Bainbridge Island Historical Society
- Successor entities to above named entities
- Other individuals or entities approved by the Secretary.

H.R. 161 creates an administrative and visitor use site in Seattle, Washington in regards to the Minidoka Internment National Monument to be used in association with the

facilities and other services of the Seattle unit of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park.

### **Background**

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the Secretary of War to designate military areas from which "any or all persons may be excluded" and to "provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary." Following the signing of Executive Order 9066, persons of Japanese ancestry living in the designated exclusion areas were ordered to evacuate their homes and businesses and report to temporary assembly centers located at fairgrounds, horse racetracks, and other makeshift facilities.

To provide more permanent accommodations for evacuees, President Roosevelt established the War Relocation Authority (WRA) in March 1942. The WRA oversaw the construction of ten relocation centers on Federally owned lands in remote areas of six western States and Arkansas, including the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho.

Established in August 1942, the Minidoka Relocation Center, also known as the Hunt Site, was located on Federal lands in south central Idaho. During its operation from August 1942 to October 1945, the population reached a peak of 9,397 Japanese Americans from Washington State, Oregon, and Alaska. The Center included over 33,000 acres of land with administrative and residential facilities located on approximately 950 acres. The Center had more than 600 buildings including administrative, religious, residential, educational, mess, medical, manufacturing, warehouse, security, and other structures.

On January 21, 2001, President William J. Clinton issued Presidential Proclamation 7395 - Establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Proclamation 7395 protected the historic structures and objects of historic interest located in the Minidoka Relocation Center, which encompassed approximately 73 acres of land in Idaho.

### **Cost**

H.R. 161 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

*\*Note: In testimony on the identical language contained in H.R. 5817, from the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the National Park Service testified that if enacted the legislation would cost \$350,000-\$400,000 to implement, with annual costs of \$200,000 thereafter.*

### **Additional Information**

[Executive Order 9066](#)

[Presidential Proclamation 7395](#)

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